

Biodiesel: Introducing Renewable Energy to North Alabama Farmers – Auburn University, Alabama Cooperative Extension System (Mark Hall)

The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) – Energy, Weatherization and Technology (EWT) Division awarded an Agriculture Energy Program grant to the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to introduce biodiesel to area farmers in north Alabama.

Alabama farmers use 12,053,500 gallons of diesel fuel each year to produce 1,340,000 acres of row crops that include corn, cotton, peanuts, wheat and soybeans. Increased demand for biodiesel will increase the demand for the vegetable oils biodiesel is made from. These oils come from soybeans, corn, peanuts and cottonseed.

ACES supplied 16 row crop farmers with biodiesel storage tanks, pumps, flow meters and 500 gallons of biodiesel. They blended this biodiesel with petroleum diesel in rates ranging from 2% to 20%. Program participants provided energy usage and acreage documentation and evaluation and hosted tours.